

# NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

## Fully embrace AI-driven solutions to simplify administrative systems: Murmu to IAS officers

**NEW DELHI, MAR 2:** Asserting that technology and innovation are transforming governance at unprecedented speed, President Droupadi Murmu on Monday asked a group of newly-inducted IAS officers to fully embrace AI-driven solutions to simplify administrative systems besides ensuring more efficient service delivery to the last mile.

She also asked them to combine technology with human sensitivity and reasoned judgment while adopting modern systems.

"India's transformation into a developed nation will be meaningful only when the benefits reach the most vulnerable and deprived sections. You should make untiring efforts to ensure that no community is left behind due to geographical, social, or economic reasons," Murmu said.

The president was addressing the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers inducted from the state civil services and attending the 128th induction training programme at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA). These officers had called on Murmu at the Rashtrapati



Bhavan here.

"You now carry responsibilities that extend far beyond district or state priorities. These greater responsibilities require a perspective that rises above departmental boundaries and dismantles administrative silos. By working in collaboration, you can enhance institutional coherence and strengthen the machinery of governance," the president said.

She said their collective professionalism, coordination, and commitment are essential to driving development outcomes and upholding the highest standards of public service.

Murmu said technology

and innovation are transforming governance at unprecedented speed.

"I urge you to fully embrace technological advancements — AI-driven solutions, e-governance platforms, digital grievance mechanisms, and real-time analytics. These tools can simplify administrative systems and ensure more efficient service delivery to the last mile.

"But while you adopt modern systems, remember that technology should be combined with human sensitivity and reasoned judgment," she added.

Another important area that demands commitment is sustainability and climate

resilience, President Murmu said.

"As senior administrators, you must champion green practices, promote climate-adaptive governance, and ensure sustainable development. Our collective actions today will determine the quality of life of future generations," she said.

Murmu said India's transformation into a developed nation will be meaningful only when the benefits reach the most vulnerable and deprived sections.

"You should make untiring efforts to ensure that no community is left behind due to geographical, social, or economic reasons," she said, adding that let the spirit of "nation first" be their guiding compass as they take on more complex challenges.

The president asked them to carry out duties with unwavering integrity, complete transparency, and an unrelenting sense of accountability.

"These are the principles that define true public service and uphold the trust the nation places in you. You should always exercise authority with empathy and fairness," Murmu added. (PTI)

## Will replicate Assam's 'detect, delete, deport' model for infiltrators in Bengal: Nabin

**ISLAMPUR, MAR 2:** The BJP will replicate Assam's "detect, delete and deport" model to identify and expel alleged Bangladeshi infiltrators in West Bengal if voted to power in the state, the party's national president Nitin Nabin said on Monday.

Addressing a rally in Islampur in Malda district while flagging off the party's 'Parivartan Yatra' ahead of the Assembly polls, Nabin also announced that the BJP would rename the town 'Ishwarpur' if it forms the government in the state.

"We have recently formed the government in Bihar. In Assam, we are following the



'detect, delete and deport' model for Bangladeshi infiltrators. We will implement the same wherever these foreigners are eating into the rights of our own citizens," Nabin said.

Referring to the recent name deletions in post-SIR

electoral rolls in the state, Nabin claimed that the Election Commission has already taken away franchise rights of "more than 50 lakh Bangladeshi infiltrators" in Bengal. "If names of 50 lakh Bangladeshis weren't deleted by the EC, then the

Centre's welfare schemes, meant for the people of Bengal, would have benefited the infiltrators," he said.

Nabin announced that once in power, the BJP will rename Islampur as Ishwarpur.

"We will fulfil your dream of renaming this place Ishwarpur because this has been the land of Rajbanshi reformer Thakur Panchanan Barma, the last Hindu king of Bengal, Lakhman Sen, and revolutionary freedom fighter Purna Chandra Das," he said, while addressing the gathering as "people of Ishwarpur" throughout his speech. (Agencies)

## SC Takes Cognisance Of Trial Court Relying On AI-Generated 'Fake' Verdicts

**NEW DELHI, MAR 2:** Taking cognisance of a trial court relying on alleged non-existing verdicts that were generated with the help of artificial intelligence (AI), the Supreme Court has said a decision based on such fake judgments would not be an error in decision making but would amount to misconduct.

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe has said it will examine the matter in detail and issued a notice to Attorney General R Venkataramani, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and the Bar Council of India.

The court has also appointed senior advocate Shyam Divan to assist it in the matter.

"We take cognisance of the trial court deploying AI-generated non-existing, fake or synthetic alleged judgments and seek to examine its consequences and accountability as it has a direct bearing on the integrity of the adjudicatory process," the bench said.

"At the outset, we must declare that a decision based on such non-existent and fake alleged judgments is not an error in the decision making. It would be a misconduct and legal conse-



quence shall follow. It is compelling that we examine this issue in more detail," the bench said in its February 27 order.

The issue cropped up before the apex court while it was hearing a plea challenging a January order of the Andhra Pradesh High Court that came on a suit filed for an injunction.

The top court said the case assumes considerable institutional concern, not because of the decision that was taken on the merits of the case, but regarding the process of adjudication and determination.

"Issue notice to the attorney general, solicitor general and the Bar Council of India," it said.

ered the objection and realised that the judgments were AI-generated.

It said after recording a word of caution, the high court had proceeded to decide the case on merits and dismissed the civil revision petition, affirming the decision of the trial court.

The petitioners then moved the apex court, challenging the high court's order.

The bench agreed to hear the plea and issued a notice on it.

"Pending disposal of the special leave petition, we direct that the trial court shall not proceed on the basis of the advocate-commissioner's report," it said and posted the matter for hearing on March 10.

Hearing a separate matter on February 17, a top court bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant expressed serious concern over a growing trend of lawyers filing petitions drafted with AI tools that contain non-existent judgments such as "Mercy vs Mankind".

It made the observations while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) matter seeking guidelines on political speeches. (Agencies)

The top court noted that the high court had consid-

## Criminals will be behind bars within a month of BJP govt in Bengal: Rajnath

**HOWRAH (WB), MAR 2:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday asserted that criminals in West Bengal would be "in jail or God knows where" within a month of a BJP government coming to power in the state.

He, however, said eliminating joblessness in Bengal, from where a significant number of people migrate for work to other states, would take around five to 10 years.

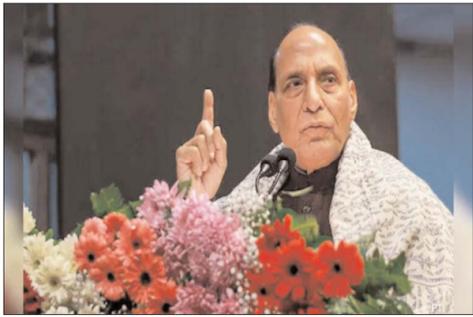
Singh was addressing a 'Parivartan Yatra' rally at Amta in Howrah district.

"Within a month of formation of a BJP government in Bengal, criminals will either be in jail, or God knows where," he said.

He added that a BJP government in Bengal would create jobs for the youth. "It will take us five to 10 years to eliminate the problem of joblessness here," Singh said.

Singh alleged that the Trinamool Congress (TMC) was dividing people in the state.

"The BJP does not engage



in politics merely to form governments, but to reform society. The TMC, on the other hand, is dividing the people of the state," he said.

He asked Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, "Why are those involved in crimes not punished in the state? You have run the government for 15 years. Why has poverty not been eradicated in West Bengal, and why do women not feel safe?"

Accusing Banerjee of favouring criminals, Singh said, "Her affection is for the criminals, the corrupt, and people of a particular religion." He added

that criminals now believe nothing will happen to them under her regime.

Singh claimed that according to NCRB records, the highest incidents of atrocities on women take place in Bengal. "In Bengal, rule of law breakers prevail and not that of the law," he alleged.

Stating that the time for change in Bengal has come, he urged the people of the poll-bound state not to falter this time.

"The soil of Bengal is giving the clarion call that TMC's atrocities will not continue anymore in the state,"

he said.

He added that violence and fear of atrocities against women were widespread. "If anyone dares to harm the womenfolk of the state, they will be taught a lesson by a BJP government," he said.

"Situation has turned so bad in the state that people are afraid, and women think twice before venturing out of their houses," Singh said.

Maintaining that corruption is prevalent in all parts of West Bengal, he said people across the state are complaining about it.

"But the people are now confident that the Mamata Banerjee government is on its way out and the BJP is coming to power," he said.

Singh asserted that once a BJP government is formed in the state, Bengal will see unforeseen development and progress.

"People of Bengal want a real change where there will be good governance, development and security," he said. (Agencies)

## Minister calls upon foreign institutes to collaborate with India's innovation-driven education system

**NEW DELHI, MAR 2:** Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday called upon foreign higher education institutions (HEIs) to collaborate with India's fast-growing and innovation-driven education system.

The minister stressed that education is the most-enduring bridge between societies in a world marked by uncertainty and rapid change.

Pradhan made the comments in his address at the "Study in India Edu-Diplomatic Conclave 2026", organised by the Ministry of Education, bringing together ambassadors, high commissioners, representatives of diplomatic missions from more than 50 countries and officials of the ministry to deliberate on strengthening international cooperation in higher education.

"India continues to remain a bright spot in the global economic landscape, offering immense opportunities to learn, research, innovate and implement. India's greatest strength lies in its vi-



brant knowledge ecosystem, demographic dividend and fast-growing economy. Through the NEP-2020 and the Study in India initiative, the country is expanding global pathways for students, researchers and institutions," he said.

"From artificial intelligence, biotechnology and semiconductors to sustainable energy, India is emerging as a trusted innovation partner, advancing a Global South model rooted in collaboration, capacity-building and shared knowledge," he added.

Stressing that education is the most-enduring bridge between societies in a world

marked by uncertainty and rapid change, Pradhan said India seeks to build strong knowledge bridges with partner countries.

The minister called upon the representatives to collaborate with India's fast-growing, innovation-driven, multidisciplinary and access-friendly education system.

Higher Education Secretary Vineet Joshi noted that over the last six years, the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, has provided a clear direction to India's higher-education reforms, particularly in advancing multidisciplinary education, integrating skilling into

mainstream learning and strengthening internationalisation.

"Indian institutions are deepening global engagement through joint, dual and twinning programmes, while premier universities are expanding their international footprint. The University Grants Commission has put in place a transparent and time-bound regulatory framework, enabling foreign universities to establish campuses in India, with applications from leading institutions across Australia, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States cleared within a month," he said.

The Study in India Edu-Diplomatic Conclave is aimed as a dedicated platform to strengthen India's diplomatic engagement in education by inviting students from partner nations to pursue higher education and short-term programmes in India, encouraging institutional collaborations and inviting globally-ranked universities to establish campuses in the country. (PTI)

## Centre Prepared To Bring Back Indians Stranded In West Asia: Union Minister Pralhad Joshi

**BENGALURU, MARCH 2:** The Centre is fully prepared to bring back Indians stranded in the Gulf region and is in touch with Indian missions abroad to ensure their safety, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Monday.

In a statement, Joshi said discussions have been held with senior officials of the concerned embassies to facilitate the safe return of

those affected by the war situation.

"Whenever Kannadigas and other Indians face distress anywhere in the world, the Central Government has ensured their safe return. Earlier, we brought back those stranded in Ukraine. Wherever Indians are, their safety remains our first priority," he said.

Joshi said information has been received about

Kannadigas facing hardship due to the severity of the Iran-Israel conflict, and urgent consultations have been held with senior ministers to take necessary measures for their protection.

Reassuring anxious families, the Minister said there was no need to panic and that the government is committed to bringing back all Indians safely.

He noted that air travel in war-affected regions is currently risky and expert advice is being sought before taking further steps.

Joshi said efforts are also underway to assist those stranded in Dubai, where flight operations have been affected. "No one should be anxious. Serious efforts are being made to bring them back safely," he added. (Agencies)

## Iranian drone crashes into UK Air Force unit, Starmer allows use of bases for 'limited defensive' ops

**LONDON, MAR 2:** A British Royal Air Force (RAF) base in Cyprus was hit by an Iranian one-way attack drone during the ongoing US and Israeli strikes launched on Tehran over the weekend, confirmed by Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides on Monday.

The UK's Ministry of Defence (MoD) said RAF Akrotiri sustained "minimal damage" on Sunday at around midnight local time, with no casualties reported.

It came hours after Prime Minister Keir Starmer's video statement announcing the UK's decision to allow the United States permission to use British bases for "limited defensive" operations to protect British lives and interests in West Asia.

"Our base and personnel continue to operate as nor-

mal protecting the safety of Britain and our interests," an MoD spokesperson said.

Family members at the base will be moved to alternative accommodation as a precautionary measure under a "temporary dispersal notice" for the British military base.

"All other locations, workplaces, businesses and facilities will remain open as normal and there are no restrictions in place," the MoD said.

The attack came in the wake of Starmer's updated statement on the conflict in the region, which led to the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"Our partners in the Gulf have asked us to do more to defend them, and it is my duty to protect British lives.

We have British jets in the air as part of coordinated defensive operations which have already successfully intercepted Iranian strikes," Starmer said from 10 Downing Street.

"But the only way to stop the threat is to destroy the missiles at source — in their storage depots or the launchers which used to fire the missiles. The United States has requested permission to use British bases for that specific and limited defensive purpose.

"We have taken the decision to accept this request — to prevent Iran firing missiles across the region, killing innocent civilians, putting British lives at risk, and hitting countries that have not been involved," he said.

Setting out the legal basis

in international law of the decision alongside the announcement, the UK PM stressed Britain is "not joining the strikes" and the latest move was about "collective self-defence".

"I want to be very clear: we all remember the mistakes of Iraq, and we have learned those lessons. We were not involved in the initial strikes on Iran and we will not join offensive action now.

"But Iran is pursuing a scorched earth strategy — so we are supporting the collective self-defence of our allies and our people in the region," he said.

According to the BBC, the US is likely to use RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, south-west England, and Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean for strikes on Iranian missile sites.